IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method for switching active calls between entities on a network device, the method comprising:

determining that a time has been reached for an upgrade of firmware on a first processor that is still actively handling calls;

collecting information about a current call on the first processor while the current call is being processed by a first entity;

initializing a second processor residing in the network device with the first processor with the information while the current call is being processed on the first processor;

switching the current call from the first processor to the second processor;

releasing the first processor from further processing of the call; and

repeating the switching of the current call from the first processor until the first processor is free from all active calls for maintenance.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the processors are digital signal processors located within the same module.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the processors are located in different modules located on the same card.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the processors are located on different cards in the network device.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

copying compression dictionary tables from the first entity; and

loading compression tables in a second entity.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein initializing a second ~~entity~~ processor further comprises initiating a retrain sequence on the second ~~entity~~ processor.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information about a current call includes modulation.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information about a current call includes country code.

9. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium, having embodied therein software code that when executed results in:

identifying that a time has been reached for an upgrade to a first processor actively handling calls in a network device;

collection of information about a current call on the first processor while the current call is being processed by the first processor;

initialization of a second processor in the network device with the information while the current call is still active on the first processor;

switching of the current call from the first processor to a second processor;

direction of the second processor to retrain and accept the current call; and

repeating until the first processor is free of current calls.

10. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein said medium further comprises a downloadable file.

11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein said medium further comprises an image file uploadable into a digital signal processor.

12. (Previously presented) A network device, comprising:

at least two processing entities residing in the network device, each able to handle at least one active call;

a connector operable to connect incoming phone lines to the at least two processing entities; and

a controller to:

determine that a time has been reached for an upgrade to a first processor that is actively handling calls; and

switch each active calls from one entity to another without interruption, and to repeatedly switch active calls on the first entity until the processor is free for maintenance.

13. (Previously presented) The device of claim 12 wherein the controller is part of a processor loeated on one of the entities.

14. (Previously presented) A network device, comprising:

at least two means for handling active calls residing in the network device;

a means for connecting the means for handling active calls with means for transmitting phone calls;

a means for determining that a time has been reached for an upgrade to a first processing means that is actively handling calls; and

a means for switching each active calls from a first processing means for handling active calls to another processing means for handling active calls without interruption, and for repeatedly switching active calls on the first means for handling active calls and until the first processing means is free for maintenance.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14 whercin the device further comprises a modem ISDN channel aggregation device.

16. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein the means for handling active calls further comprises digital signal processors.

17. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein the means for handling active calls further comprise modules located on the same card.

18. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein the means for handling active calls further comprises cards.

19. (Original) The device of claim 14 wherein the means for switching active calls further comprises a controller.